

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
June 15, 2017
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

MINUTES

Call to Order: Commissioner Michael Sheehan, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Roll Call: Gloria Lanum called roll and a quorum was present.

Present: Chairperson, Commissioner Michael Sheehan, Vice Chairperson, Wendy White, Bozena Bienias, Alan Bond, Dave Caudle, Sara Damiano, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Audra Frye, Debra Johnson, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Gerald McCole, Nicolette McClure, Roy Pentilla, Gary Scholten, Joseph Sucher, Teresa Vear, Susan Vick, Julie Wetherby, Kathleen Williams-Newell, Karen Wintringham, John Zimmerman and Ex-Officio Members: Robyn Ford and Elizabeth Thompson

Excused: Dennis Brieske, Charles Corwin, Mary Engelman, Angie Perone, Patricia Rencher, Donald Ryan, and Lillie Williams

Resigned: Thomas Hartwig

Term Expired: Pamela McKenna

Guest Commissioner: Dona Wishart, Chairperson

Guests: Linda Burghardt, Executive Director, Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM) and Shannon Harkins-Padgitt, Program Coordinator, AAAAM

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Staff present: Gloria Lanum and Lauren Swanson-Aprill

Agenda: Kathleen Johnston-Calati moved acceptance of the agenda and Roy Pentilla seconded the motion. The SAC unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

Minutes: Gerry McCole moved to accept the April 21, 2017, minutes and John Zimmerman seconded. The SAC unanimously approved the April 21, 2017, minutes.

AASA Senior Deputy Director's Report: Commissioner Wishart read Richard Kline's report as he had to attend a special emergency preparedness meeting.

"Currently, I am across town at the Michigan State Police – State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The SEOC, affectionately known as the bunker, is "activated" when the Governor declares a state of emergency in Michigan or if there is a

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serious situation that may be leading to a state emergency that needs to be mitigated or monitored. When the SEOC is activated, all departments are required to send a liaison to respond to any needs that may arise and facilitate communication between their specific departments and the SEOC.

To assure all parties are prepared the SEOC runs drills throughout the year based on a variety of scenarios. For instance, since Michigan has three nuclear power plants in the state, drills are conducted based on scenarios that coincide with plant failures, nuclear fallout, and the corresponding impacts/needs. In addition, the federal Department of Homeland Security participates and gives feedback on these drills. Today, I am at one such drill where the scenario is a power grid failure that has impacted a large percentage of the state. To my knowledge, this is the first time this type of scenario has been conducted, so we are paying special attention to the impact this would have on elderly citizens around the state and our aging network that supports them.

Tomorrow we head to Flint for a CSA meeting. We are looking for final approval on our three-year state plan that we have been working on for several months. It has been a very collaborative effort of a variety on stakeholders including a public comment period, DHHS administrative staff, the governor's office, and our Commissioners. We also had several draft reviews by our federal liaison at the Administration of Community Living who upheld our plan as a model example for other states. Thanks again for all your dedication and hard work. I look forward to see you all soon!"

Old Business:

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) Report: Commissioner Wishart took a few minutes to share a celebration of the journey of life to recognize the loss of Richard's father and the birth of AASA staff member Phil Lewis' son as well as to recognize the passing of valued SAC member Vicente Castellanos. Commissioner Wishart shared that former Commissioner Richard Ortega volunteers for hospice and when patients were asked what was most important to them at this point in time, they replied it was important that their lives mattered and they hoped they would be remembered.

Commissioner Wishart also provided the CSA update for the SAC.

- The CSA is fast approaching the time of appointments and re-appointments to the CSA by the Governor as well as the orientation on reviewing the Area Agencies on Aging's (AAAs) implementation plans. In August and September, the CSA will review the 16 AAAs' plans.
- The AASA State Plan was reviewed by the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and mentioned that Michigan's plan is a model for the nation! The CSA will consider approving the plan at their June meeting.
- Regular business items and legislative updates discussed by the Advocacy Committee are noted in the CSA minutes, which can be accessed on the AASA web site: <http://www.michigan.gov/osa/1,4635,7-234-64080-395270--,00.html>.

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- Commissioner Wishart is very interested in integrating the SAC advocacy efforts with the CSA's and Donna Murray-Brown's efforts in leading the CSA Advocacy Committee.
- The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation may be interested in partnering with the aging network to fund family caregiving/direct care worker projects in southeast Michigan (AAA Regions 1-A and 1-B).
- The CSA welcomed back past AASA director, Kari Sederburg who now represents the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF); AASA and others across the aging network recently received several grants from the MHEF.
- During Older Michiganian's Day held in May, the Senior of the Year award was given to 100-year old Gwen Tuck from Kalamazoo for volunteering 30 years with efforts associated with the home delivered meals program. Additionally, in May, the Gatekeeper programs were celebrated, along with sending certificates to centenarians.

Commissioner Wishart thanked the SAC for their work on the SAC's 2016 Direct Care Worker Report, explaining that the report was sent to the Governor, Legislature, aging network and other partners. Home and community-based needs for supports and services for older adults are increasing, and the SAC report substantiated the need for well-trained and paid direct care workers to support this growing need. The SAC reports are very important tools for Michigan's aging network and the CSA looks forward to receiving the SAC's report on creative aging. The 2017 report focuses on creative quality of life programs.

The future CSA meetings and public hearings are being held in Flint on June 16, 2017, Iron Mountain on July 21, 2017, and Alpena on October 20, 2017. Commissioner Wishart asked SAC members to encourage local citizens and the aging network to participate.

SAC Direct Care Worker Report Follow-up: Lauren Swanson-Aprill shared AASA is working with Michigan State University, Community Services Network and additional researchers to implement an MHEF grant entitled, *Integrated Model for Personal Assistant Research and Training (IMPART)*. The goal of the grant is to implement a direct care worker training system using the Building Training...Building Quality™ (BTBQ™) curriculum developed a few years ago. The BTBQ™ curriculum has been finalized and the train-the-trainer program is going to be updated next; concurrently, a data system is being developed to track trainings and trainers and personal assistants being trained. Trainer trainings will be held in Traverse City and in Lower Michigan within the next year.

New Business:

SAC Membership Update: Chairperson Sheehan reported on the SAC's current membership:

The current SAC membership is 28 (plus two Ex Officios), which equals 30. Current AAA Regions 1-C, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 14 each have one opening and AAA Region 8 has two openings. Current SAC members from Regions 3-A and 7 whose terms expire in October have already submitted their applications to re-apply.

SAC Member Duties and Vetting Process: Chairperson Sheehan shared a second draft of the *SAC Member Duties* with the SAC, explaining that he had incorporated suggested edits received from SAC members. He asked members to review the document and provide any further edits to him ASAP. Once the final edits are made, "as soon as possible," the *SAC Member Duties* will be added to the *SAC Applicant Instruction* that will be placed on the AASA web site and sent to the AAA directors and SAC members to share with those interested in applying to serve. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the new interview process would begin following this round of applicant reviews. Since one of the SAC's member's duties is to have input into AASA's state plan, it was recommended by Teresa Vear that a presentation about the state plan process be provided during the October meeting.

Election of SAC Vice Chairperson: Wendy White, the current vice chairperson, was elected to serve for a second, one-year term.

Presentation—Overview of the Michigan Senior Advocacy Council (MSAC): Lauren Swanson-Aprill introduced the new executive director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association (AAAAM), Linda Burghardt. Ms. Burghardt worked for the Michigan State Senate as a policy and fiscal analyst for many years. She also worked as a manager for Zurich North America, as the governmental relations director for the National Association of Social Workers, Michigan Chapter, and the executive director of the Michigan office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Ms. Burghardt explained that MSAC was formed by the AAAAM in 1977 to advocate on behalf of the AAAs with local, state, and national public officials to speak in a unified voice for the aging network to provide information and to convey information to the aging network. MSAC members are chosen locally to serve on the state council. Over the years, MSAC has written many letters and presented numerous verbal testimonies. For Older Michiganian's Day (OMD), the AAAAM and MSAC delivered personal invitation letters, agendas and lunch tickets to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and State Senators/Representatives to attend OMD. This effort was very successful as the number of public officials attending increased when compared with previous years.

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Ms. Burghardt next introduced SAC members **Joe Sucher and Debra Johnson**, who are also MSAC members and explained the importance of serving on the MSAC since the state public officials are term limited and are not able to learn all there is to know to make decisions during their short terms. The role of MSAC members is to contact their legislators monthly to keep them informed and educated about current aging issues on topics such as income tax, no fault insurance, public service commission oversight, part-time legislature (Michigan is only one of ten states that are full time.), and the MDHHS state budget. The relationships that the MSAC members establish with these public officials is crucial to maintaining and increasing supports and services for older adults. A key question that Ms. Burghardt raised is, "Where do we want the power to govern to be if the state moves to a part-time legislature?" Discussion ensued and Commissioner Sheehan thanked Ms. Burghardt for attending and her presentation.

Chairperson Sheehan moved the discussion of Supporting the CSA with Advocacy up on the agenda and he distributed a copy of the Final Draft of the *Commission on Services to the Aging, Public Policy and Advocacy Guiding Principles*. Following discussion, Teresa Vear moved that the SAC support the CSA by adopting their guiding principles. Gerald McCole seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Commissioners Sheehan and Wishart agreed to share the SAC's support with Donna Murray-Brown and the CSA during the June meeting.

Continued Discussion of the SAC Member Duties was held. Commissioner Sheehan has updated the *SAC Member Handbook* that now includes information on the Fair Use Law. SAC members felt it was important to include a thorough history of the SAC in the SAC member orientation and that serving on the SAC is a voluntary position. Next, SAC members were asked to share ideas regarding a list of questions that the SAC vetting committee may use while interviewing future candidates such as: What can you bring to the SAC? Why do you wish to serve? The SAC decided interview questions would be better than sending an additional questionnaire. Further interview questions may be sent to Commissioner Sheehan in the next two weeks.

Final Discussion of the Creative Aging Report: **Vice Chairperson White** first took a few minutes to share that she had attended Vicente's funeral representing the SAC, and learned about his life as well as his many accomplishments including riding across Michigan on a horse for 20 days and continuing to make contributions regardless of his health!

Following, Vice Chairperson White led the discussion about the next steps for finalizing the Creative Aging report and in choosing a title for the report. In general, members were satisfied with the recent draft. All members will send any further edits to Lauren by early next week so the report may be finalized by June 30. A final review of minor grammatical edits will be made by Lauren, Wendy and Commissioner Sheehan. All links will be checked by Elizabeth Thompson to ensure that they are working once the editing is completed.

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Following a review of several report title options, the SAC approved the following title: *Creative Aging: Opening the Door to Health and Happiness*. The report cover--“The Shell Collector” by Robert Iwamas—will be added to the final report once SAC members have reviewed the final draft.

Discuss SAC Ideas for New Charge: Commissioner Sheehan reviewed the three options (see below) the SAC voted on during their April meeting as well as other possible topics and the previous list of completed SAC reports. He will present these ideas to the CSA during their June meeting.

The SAC’s top three research report recommendations include

- 1. Social determinants of health, malnutrition, and access to health care as well as health inequities for older adults.** Look into improving/growing the geriatric nurse practitioner program and volunteer time banking programs (For example, younger adult volunteers often drive elders to appointments and when the volunteer can no longer drive, a young adults volunteers to drive them.)
- 2. Elder Isolation.**
 - Socialization (Transportation, Scams/financial exploitation, substance abuse, depression, suicide)
 - Health (Malnutrition, lack of doctor’s visits, lack of medication)
 - Housing options (Helps to potentially combat some of the isolation, grandparents helping grandchildren, seniors helping college students)
- 3. Funding Resources for Seniors**

As the Baby Boomers and their parents continue to expand the senior population, the funding sources for their lives is stressed. This report will attempt to provide a detailed look into the array of seniors’ personal resources such as savings, retirement and advanced care planning--pensions, 401Ks, and annuities. It will also review federal, state, local government programs, local county millages, philanthropies, non-profit organizations and businesses that are used and available to support and sustain the senior population. The SAC would define the future senior population with statistics and demographics... Who and what are these folks? The report will also address raising awareness with Millennials about saving for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next SAC Meeting will be held:
Thursday, October 26, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center